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### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A decoding device for analyzing communication protocols comprising:

a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the generic decoder being adapted to interpret the protocol descriptions; and

a specific decoder designed for a certain protocol description, the specific decoder supplementing the generic decoder in realtime, and the generic and specific decoders being reversibly connected ~~so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The decoding device as recited in claim 1 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function that is overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder.

3. (Previously Presented) The decoding device as recited in claim 2 wherein the one overlaid element function is interpreted by the generic decoder.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a decoding device comprising the steps of:

provisioning a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the protocol descriptions being interpreted by the generic decoder;

provisioning a specific decoder for a certain protocol description, the specific decoder supplementing the generic decoder in realtime; and

reversibly connecting the generic and specific decoders to form the decoding device ~~so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.~~

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder during connection of the generic decoding with the specific decoder.